

Barring the year 2005-06 in the case of rice, production in each year is less than the target both in case of rice and wheat.

(c) Production in a year depends on a number of factors including adequate temporal and spatial distribution of rainfall. Year 2002-03 was a drought year which resulted in sharp decline in production of rice and wheat. Deficient rains from the South-West Monsoon during 2004-05 and abnormal rise in temperature in February 2006 in states of North-Western region adversely affected the production of these crops in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(d) To increase the production of rice and wheat in the country, Government is implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Rice and Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice and ICDP). Under the Scheme assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, hybrid seed production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations, training of farmers including women, transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system and production of certified seeds.

inclusion of more districts in the package for farmers

2597. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for inclusion of more Districts in the Prime Minister's Special Central Assistance package for farmers; and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has approved a special rehabilitation package for distressed farmers of 31 suicide prone districts in the country. Several States including Andhra Pradesh Karnataka Kerala and Maharashtra have demanded for inclusion of more districts under the rehabilitation package. Alongwith the special rehabilitation package the Government of India has approved a special action plan for Idukki and Alappuzha districts of Kerala on the following lines:—

[15 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

- (i) Constitution of a multi-disciplinary team to study and suggest programmes for preservation and development of Kuttanadu wetlands in Alappuzha district;
- (ii) Launch of programme for rejuvenation of plantation crops in a Mission mode;
- (iii) Revival of coconut cultivation in Kerala;
- (iv) Construction of new fishing harbours in the State; and
- (v) Provide institutional credit coverage to all eligible farmers of these two districts.

GM crops in Chhattisgarh

†2598. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Chhattisgarh have lodged protest with the Centre asking for the reasons due to which certain GM crops have been sowed in the State without concurrence of the State;

(b) if so the facts in this regard; and

(c) the names of the crops alongwith the names of the institutes under whose supervision the said crops have been produced in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of Chhattisgarh has not lodged any protest with the Central Government over the trials of certain Genetically Modified (GM) crops in the State. However the State Government on the basis of an enquiry has informed Department of Biotechnology (the administrative department for Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation) that some administrative and scientific lapses have been observed in the trial of Bt. Rice and Bt. Okra.

(c) The names of the crops and the institutions under whose supervision the trials were conducted are given below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.